

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 currently are in the application.

Claim 2 was indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter, if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 1. Claim 2 has now been amended to include the subject matter of claim 1, and is presumed to be formally allowable as now presented.

Claim 1 has been amended to clearly distinguish over the newly cited Labrum U.S. patent 4,210,955. The Labrum device is the basic form of device in which the applicant's invention can be advantageously incorporated. Labrum includes four shutter blades 15, 16, with handles 25 extended outside of the main housing, for engagement and adjustment by an operator. The shutter blades are held in their adjusted positions by means of pressure plates 19, 20, which urge the shutter blades against a stationary framing gate 11. The Examiner has read the Labrum reference broadly against the original language of claim 1, applying the pressure plates 19, 20 as both the friction means and the locking means of the applicant's original claim 1. Moreover, as the Examiner will understand, the pressure plates 19, 20 are simply a friction restraint and perform the same function as the internal flanges 25, 26 of the applicant's device. This allows the shutter blades to be manipulated by an operator and to be generally self-retaining in their adjusted positions. However, over a period of time the shutter blades

may be accidentally bumped and displaced and/or the cumulative effect of vibration over a period of time can cause one or more of the adjusted shutter blades to be displaced.

In the applicant's device, and as emphasized in the now amended claim 1, there are locking plates which are independent and separate from the friction elements, together with releasable locking elements for causing the locking plates to apply clamping pressure to external portions of the framing shutters, thereby locking said framing shutters against movement from their adjusted positions.

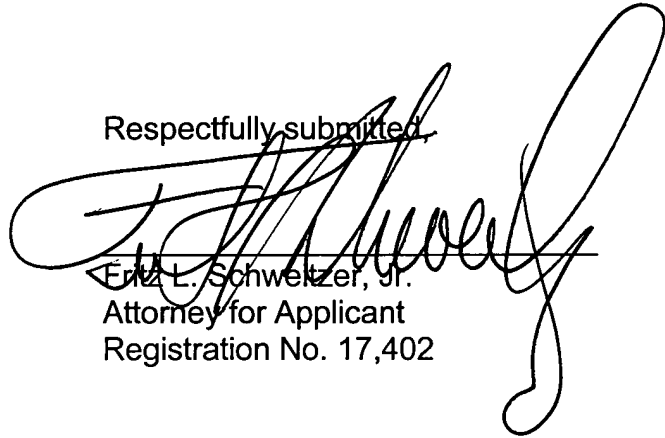
In the applicant's device, after the framing shutters are carefully manipulated to desired adjusted positions, to achieve the optical effects desired, and while the shutters are retained in such positions by the friction elements, the separate and independent locking plates are secured in order to effectively lock the shutter blades in their adjusted positions.

The device of the applicant's claimed invention is especially desirable for lighting used in, for example, a long-running theatrical presentation. In such cases, at least some of the lighting fixtures will be carefully adjusted in the first instance and used throughout the extended run of the presentation. In such cases, the separate and independent locking means is very valuable, as the lighting fixture may be "permanently" set for the duration of the theatrical presentation and will not change over time by accidental touching and/or the cumulative effect of

vibration and the like. In a more conventional lighting fixture, such as represented by Labrum, the device may require frequent maintenance in order to assure that the original settings are restored or maintained.

The prior art neither shows nor remotely suggests this very beneficial feature, which is now clearly set forth in the claims as now presented. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,




Fritz L. Schweitzer, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 17,402

Customer No. 022831

Schweitzer Cornman Gross & Bondell LLP
292 Madison Avenue - 19th Floor
New York NY 10017
Tel.: 646-424-0770
Fax.: 646-424-0880

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 on May 1, 2006


RoseMarie Mannino